



City of Annapolis

Department of Neighborhood & Environmental Programs

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Annapolis Environmental Commission

April 2, 2014

The Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) held its regular meeting on April 2, 2014 at 145 Gorman Street, Conference Room 3. **Chair** Riegel called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

Present: **Chair** Riegel, Weber, Butler, Kiraly, O'Leary, Pogell

Absent: **Vice Chair** Kissel Butler, Zolper

Staff Present: Broadbent, Biba, Waters

Guest: Darrick Sparks, Philip Favero, Paul Murphy

II. March 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The voting on the March 5, 2014 meeting minutes were deferred to allow for further edits.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/VISITOR INTRODUCTION

Mr. Favero explained that he and Mr. Weber both share background in the Annapolis Friends (Quakers) and that this group approved "A Minute on Climate Change." He explained that a minute in this case is indicative of a public statement and this minute reflects the group sense of urgency on the climate changes that are occurring as well as the risk of not reducing the amount of CO₂. He indicated that on the basis of the urgency and approval of the minute, the group decided to form a community group where approximately 25 people have expressed interest. He noted that there are three meetings that are being held at the Quaker Meeting House and the next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2014. He noted that the climate steward group's mission is learning about the science and value of climate changes; facilitating and participating in climate discussions; and engaging with and influencing public officials around climate change issues. There are two subgroups, Education and Outreach and Policy. He has also drafted a letter on Cove Point and briefly discussed some issues addressed in the letter.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

A. Subcommittee Reports

DNEP provided a copy of the written development project status for members to review and discuss.

1. Development Review

a. Reserve at Quiet Waters Appeals

There was no report on this agenda item.

b. Crystal Spring Update

Ms. Butler noted that **Chair** Riegel told the Crystal Spring developer that we would consult with the full AEC prior to follow. **Chair** Riegel noted that he provided comments to the developer that the AEC would be interested in reviewing any new developments on the project. Ms. Butler clarified that the

developers still intend to place buildings south of the intermittent stream. Ms. Broadbent has not had any further discussions with the Crystal Springs developer since the last meeting.

Greenways Concept Plan

There was brief discussion regarding the Greenways Concept Plan. Ms. Broadbent suggested that the AEC invite the County custodian of the Greenways Concept plan to a meeting to discuss the plan. The AEC was amenable to the suggestion. **Chair** Riegel agreed to contact Rick Anthony and Mr. Larry Tom, County Planning and Zoning Director regarding any updates on the Greenway Concept Plan and Forest Conservation Plan enforcement.

c. Thomas Woods

DNEP provided written comments on this agenda item.

d. Primrose Hill on Milkshake Lane

Mr. Biba reported that additional information is needed so the project has not been approved.

e. Rodgers Property (Bembe Beach Road)

DNEP provided written comments on this agenda item.

f. The Enclave at Spa Road

DNEP provided written comments on this agenda item.

g. Hayes Annexation Property

DNEP provided written comments on this agenda item.

h. Rocky Gorge

Mr. Biba noted that the developer does not have to go through the **formal review** process as they have a recorded plat. He indicated that the DNEP has reviewed and commented on the FSD requesting additional detail. He noted that DNEP has received the forest conservation plan and the grading application for this project. **There was a brief discussion about whether the developer must comply with new stormwater and FCA requirements since their initial application of 8 years ago. Mr. Biba responded.** There was a brief discussion regarding the maintenance of permeable pavers and their suitability for these types of projects. **Permeable pavers are a problem as they require maintenance and there is no way to enforce the maintenance by owners so they are not really as good of a solution to stormwater run-off issues. To work correctly, they need to be vacuumed periodically to unclog the pavers. So permeable pavers are not as good as they had originally thought so DNEP will not be advising developers to use permeable pavers. There are steep slopes on the site and they did not characterize all of the slopes that were greater than 15% as they need to in the FSD.**

2. Recycling

There was no news from the Recycling subcommittee. Ms. Broadbent noted that Public Works confirmed that there are 150 of the wheeled recycling bins remaining and suggested including this in the newsletter.

3. Outreach

Mr. O'Leary noted that the newsletter is ready for deployment. The AEC recommended that Mr. O'Leary proceed with newsletter deployment.

4. Water Quality/Stormwater

Chair Riegel gave a brief report on the tour of the restoration project for the creek at the headwaters of Spa Creek. He noted that there were remarks about curing the symptoms instead of the cause on this project. Mr. Biba noted that the Department has been verbally approved for a grant in the amount of \$575,000 for stream restoration. Ms. Pogell asked if there have been any efforts made on addressing

the shoreline erosion at Truxtun Park boat ramp. Ms. Broadbent agreed to check with Recreation and Parks and report back. Ms. Pogell also agreed to check with Mel Wilkins on the exact location.

Chair Riegel had discussions with Alderman Arnett who is considering putting formal steps in the ordinance that will include the AEC as part of the review process on projects that have environmental impacts.

5. Renewable Energy

Mr. Weber noted that none of the renewable energy bills made it out of Committee. Mr. Murphy asked about the City goals for trying to get to a certain amount of renewable energy. Mr. Biba responded that it is a State requirement of 20% by 2025. Mr. Murphy asked what the percentage of renewable energy that the City is using and Mr. Biba responded what the State has required. Mr. Murphy suggested that the City departments meet to discuss and investigate these alternate energy solutions.

B. DNEP Report

There was no DNEP Report.

C. Environmental Matters Committee

Chair Riegel reported that there is an Environmental Matters Committee meeting scheduled for the April 17, 2014.

D. Topics for the Environmental Breakfast

Chair Riegel reported on the Environmental Breakfast meeting with Alderman Littman and representatives from environmental groups noting that the Mayor did not show. He noted that this was the second time this has occurred and it was very disappointing. There was written communication to the Mayor and are waiting on a response. He noted that it was a pleasant breakfast but the principal purpose was not accomplished.

E. Commission Member Vacancies

Mr. Weber inquired as to when the last time the Mayor was asked about the AEC vacancies.

Chair Riegel mentioned that this was on the Environmental Breakfast agenda but that Alderman Littman inquired regarding the vacancies at a Council meeting. Ms. Broadbent indicated that the Mayor's response was that he will try to have them filled with in the next month or so.

F. New Business

Ms. Broadbent mentioned the Tree giveaway is scheduled for May 10, 2014 at the Truxtun Park pool and it is funded by BGE. Ms. Pogell discussed the BGE grant opportunities for a wide variety of projects.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Butler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Mr. Weber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 6-0. **The next AEC meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2014 at 7:00pm at 145 Gorman Street.**

Tami Hook, Recorder